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# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91211736
Party	Plaintiff Kittrich Corporation
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Submission	Motion for Default Judgment
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Date	04/22/2014
Attachments	TTAB 91211736 - Motion for Default Judgment (2).pdf(208037 bytes )

#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE 1 TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD 2 3 KITTRICH CORPORATION Trademark Application 4 Mark: LITTLE TWIGS BABY CHILD MAMA Opposer 5 Serial No. 85/659719 VS. 6 Filed: June 23, 2012 7 LITTLE TWIGS, LLC Published: July 23, 2013 8 Opposition No.: 91211736 Applicant. 9 10 11 MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT 12 COMES NOW, the Opposer, Kittrich Corporation, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §2.106(a) and 13 Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, and moves for a default judgment against the Applicant, Little Twigs, LLC. 14 Applicant has failed to file an Answer to the Notice of Opposition during the time allowed 15 therefor. 16 17 MEMORANDUM OF LAW 18 19 I. **BACKGROUND.** 20 Opposer Kittrich Corporation is a consumer products company who is the owner of 21 22 numerous marks that are used in the promotion of the LITTLE TWIG brand, which are registered on the Principal Register of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. U.S. Reg. No. 23 3,121,155 – for the standard character mark LITTLE TWIG – was registered on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in 24 IC 03 for "Cosmetics, and soaps, namely skin bathing and cleaning solutions, shampoos and 25 lotions." Moreover, U.S. Reg. No. 3,540,114 – for the design mark LITTLE TWIG 26

NURTURING FAMILIES ORGANICALLY – was registered on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, in IC 03

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for "Baby lotion; Baby oils; Baby Powder; Cosmetic soaps; Hair conditioners for babies; Shampoos for babies; Baby shampoo; Bath lotion; Face and body lotions; Hair shampoos and conditioners; Hand lotions; Liquid soaps for hands, face and body."

Opposer acquired ownership of the LITTLE TWIG Marks on or about December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 by virtue of a licensing and purchasing agreement regarding the assets of Little Twig, Inc. U.S. Trademark Reg. Nos. 3,121,155 for LITTLE TWIG, and 3,540,114 for LITTLE TWIG NURTURING FAMILIES ORGANICALLY, were assigned to the benefit of Kittrich Corporation after completion of the asset purchase agreement, and recorded with the USPTO on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, Applicant filed to register the proposed design mark LITTLE TWIGS BABY CHILD MAMA, Serial No. 85/659719, in IC 35 for "Retail clothing boutiques; Retail furniture stores; Retail store services featuring green and eco-friendly products in the nature of children[']s clothing[,] furniture, toys, and goods" claiming use in commerce as early as September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Opposer timely filed its Notice of Opposition, No. 91211736, and forwarded a service copy of the Notice of Opposition to the Applicant via Certified Mail to the stated Correspondence Address of record in U.S. Serial No. 85/659719.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Board mailed an Order to the Applicant stating that an Answer to the Notice of Opposition was due forty (40) days after the mailing date of such Order. As forty days from the Board's Order fell on Labor Day, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, the due date for Applicant's filing of an Answer, therefore, was September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Opposer received notice from the U.S. Postal Service that the Certified Mailing of the Notice of Opposition was refused by Applicant on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and Opposer filed Notice of Ineffective Service with the Board on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Opposer had no other information regarding the location or whereabouts of the Applicant other than the Correspondent Information recited within U.S. Ser. No. 85/659719.

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On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Opposer filed a Motion for Default Judgment with the Board. [The Motion for Default Judgment was later denied on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014.] In an October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Notice to the Applicant, the Board, after locating Applicant at a new address, extended until November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the time for the Applicant to file an Answer to the Notice of Opposition.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 or November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Response, an untitled paper purported to be provided by the Applicant, was received by the Board. The Response appears to have been dated "November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012" by the Applicant, bears a USPTO date of receipt stamp of 11-19-2013, and is listed on the US Patent and Trademark Office website with a date of 11/20/2013. There was no indication that the Response was delivered by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, nor was there any indication that the Response was sent by facsimile or provided with a certification in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.6.

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Opposer filed a Motion, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 1(f) and TBMP § 506, to strike in its entirety, the untimely, untitled document filed with the Board by the Applicant on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 or November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, the Board granted Opposer's Motion to Strike Applicant's informal answer to the Notice of Opposition as conceded, in accordance with Trademark Rule 2.127(a), inasmuch as Applicant filed no opposition thereto. The Board further allowed an additional thirty (30) days from the mailing date of the order to file an amended answer, pursuant to Rule 8(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, failing which the Board is disposed to issue a Notice of Default. As thirty days from the Board's Order fell on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the due date for Applicants filing of an amended Answer, therefore, was April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. To date, despite having multiple opportunities to defend itself, no Answer has been filed by Applicant in these proceedings.

# II. DEFAULT JUDGMENT SHOULD BE ENTERED.

Trademark Rule 2.106(a) provides that "If no answer is filed within the time set, the opposition may be decided as in case of default." 37 C.F.R. § 2.106(a). See also Fed. R. Civ. P. 55. Under these rules, "the failure to answer is all that is necessary to support [default] judgment." Old Grantian Co. v. William Grant & Sons Ltd., 150 USPQ 58, 60 (CCPA 1966).

The opposition defendant that "fails to file a timely answer is in 'default' once the due date for the answer has passed." Paolo's Assocs. Ltd. v. Bondo, 21 USPQ2d 1899, 1901 (Comm'r Pat. 1990). In such a case, the Board may issue a Notice of Default, or alternatively, the party in the position of "plaintiff" may move for entry of a default judgment. Old Grantian, 150 USPQ at 60.

Applicant has wholly failed to answer, thereby failing to answer within the time set by the Board. Accordingly, a judgment of default should be entered against Applicant.

## III. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

In light of the foregoing, Opposer respectfully requests that default judgment be entered against Applicant in accordance with § 2.106(a) of the Trademark Rules.

Date: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

MARK A. CALKINS KITTRICH CORPORATION 1585 West Mission Blvd. Pomona, CA 91766

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MARK A. CALKINS Vice President

Kittrich Corporation

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

 I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion for Default Judgment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service first class certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Applicant at: Lisa Julian, Little Twigs, LLC, 1317 Cabrillo Ave., Venice, California, 90291, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2014.

Mark A. Calkins

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